NOTES ON THE GLAMORGAN DIALECTS

by

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II. VOCABULARY

In this section, some Glamorgan dialect words are listed in groups determined by their field of reference. In most cases, the part of speech will be obvious, but occasionally the abbreviations "adj." and "v." are used to denote "adjective" and "verb" respectively. Where the derivation of a word is reasonably certain, I indicate it; and in this connexion, "OE" means "Old English" (the language as it was till about the year 1100) and "ME" means "Middle English" (the language as it was from about 1100 till about 1500). When I say just "OE" or "ME" without giving the actual Old or Middle English form, it is to be inferred that the pronunciation of the word concerned was much the same in Old or Middle English as it is today.

The localities at which a word is recorded are shown in brackets, immediately following the definition of the word.

(a) General

ACH-Y-FI!, a Welsh exclamation of disgust (Resolven).

BAITIN, a wooden rod (Llanrhidian, Cowbridge). A variant of BATON (ME), which is an adoption into English of Old French baston.

BUGGY-BO, the bogey-man (Resolven). Recorded in Shropshire, Herefs., Worcs., Gwent. Compare Welsh bwcibo meaning 'devil' and Cornish buccaboo.

CAMMIT, crooked (Horton). Recorded in Lancs., Chesh., Gloucs., Wilts. Compare Welsh cam 'crooked'.

COCK'S EYE, a "halo" round the moon (Horton). SED records this at one locality in Lancs. and one in Cornwall.

DAP, DAPPER, a light rubber gym-shoe (Peterston, Llantwit). Widely recorded in Gwent. Formed on DAP v. 'to bounce' (ME dappen, which is presumably a parallel formation to DAB).

DATHER v.(transitive), to dry -- applied especially to the action of the rays of the sun (Llanrhidian).

DIDDIKIES, gipsies((Resolven, Llangennith, Llantwit). SED records in Yorks., the midland counties of England, Somerset and Devon.

FLANNEN, flannel (Peterston). In general dialect use in England, Scotland and Ireland. Welsh gwlanen.

HELLY v., to conceal, cover (Horton). OE helan.

HIPPISH, angry (Llangennith). EDD records from Lincs. Perhaps the same as HYPPISH meaning 'in low spirits', formed on HYP 'hypochondria' that is recorded by OED from the 18th century.

HIPPETY-HOY, a youth aged about 17 (Horton). EDD records from Suffolk and Hants.

IDIOVAL adj., idle (Llancarfan).

KEECH v.(transitive), to clog (Horton). OED records a *noun* KEECH meaning 'a lump of congealed fat' from the 17th century; this is now obsolete except in regional dialects, and its origin is unknown.

KEEK v. (intransitive), to look (Llanrhidian). EDD records from Scotland, Ireland, northern England, Isle of Man and Northants.

LEPPANSTOCK, a stone mounting-block in a wall (Llanrhidian). EDD records in the form LEAPING-STOCK from Gloucs., Dorset and Cornwall.

MAIN, very -- usually followed by an adjective, as in *main cold* 'very cold' (Horton). EDD records from south Wales, parts of Scotland, Yorks., the midland and southern counties of England, Gloucs., west Somerset, Dorset, Cornwall, Devon, and from America. OED records this use of *main* in dialects from the 17th century. The word is probably formed on the adjective *main* meaning 'strong', derived from an OE noun spelt *mægen* and pronounced much the same as *main*, meaning 'strength'.

MITCH v., to play truant (Bishopston). EDD records from south Wales, Ireland, Herefs., Gloucs., Hants., the Isle of Wight, Wilts., Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. Compare *miching mallecho* in *Hamlet* Act 3, scene 2. The word is apparently an adoption of Old French *muchier* 'to hide, skulk, lurk'.

MITTY, decayed, gone bad -- applied to meat (Bishopston).

NOPPIT, lively, bustling (Bishopston).

NUMMET, food eaten as a mid-day snack in the fields, during the break from work (Horton). SED records in Somerset, Wilts., Dorset and Hants. From NOON, plus MEAT in its old sense 'food in general'.

PILM, dust (Middleton, Horton). EDD records from Gower, Pembrokeshire, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. It is in fact a Cornish word.

PIMP v., to watch on the sly (Bishopston).

POCKET-PIECE, a florin (Horton).

QUAT v., to allay, as in *quat the pilm* 'allay the dust'. (Bishopston, Middleton). EDD records in sense 'to flatten down, squeeze flat, crush' from Gower, Wilts. and Somerset. Old French *quatir* 'to press down, sink, hide'.

RAG-STONE, a stone for sharpening a scythe (Horton). EDD records RAG in this sense from west Yorks., north Lincs., Northants. ME.

RIGHT, very, usually with a following adjective, as in *right lazy* 'very lazy' (Resolven). This usage is archaic in Standard English but still alive in the dialects of Scotland, Ireland, northern England, Worcs., Herefs., and Suffolk.

ROMPSE v., to romp (Tonteg). Recorded also in Newport.

SACRED, very, usually with a following adjective, as in *sacred cold* 'very cold' (Bishopston).

SCRAMB v., to scratch with the claws -- applied to cats and, metaphorically, to children (Gorseinon, Glais, Resolven, Bishopston, Cwmfelin, Llangan, St Brides, Peterston, Llantwit, Llancarfan). EDD records from Derbyshire. Compare Dutch *schrammen* v. meaning 'to graze, scratch'.

SHALE, shallow (Horton).

SHIGGLY GWT, a child's swing (Pontlottyn). Compare, perhaps, Welsh *siglo* v. 'to shake'.

SHIM, the side of something (Cwmfelin).

SKAG v., to tear -- especially a stocking, by catching it on a nail or splinter (Llangan, St Brides, Peterston). EDD records from Warwicks., Gloucs., Wilts., Somerset.

SLAT v., to throw something away (Bishopston). EDD records in sense 'to throw violently -- especially water or liquid' from the northern and midland counties of England, Isle of Wight,west Dorset, west Somerset and Devon.

SOWL v., to save (Bishopston). EDD records from Pembrokeshire.

SOWLY v., to gather (Horton). EDD records from Pembrokeshire.

SPEAL, a basket for general use (Horton).

STEEVED, past participle used adjectivally, stiffened (Horton). EDD records from Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. OED records the verb TO STEEVE from the 16th century; it is formed on the adjective STEEVE meaning 'firm' (*ME stef*).

STROP, string (Horton). EDD records this from Pembrokeshire, Devon and Cornwall.

THANK-YOU MA'AM, a pile of dirt in the centre of the road, on which a cart can be placed so as to rest the horse. (Resolven).

TID, childish, peevish (Cowbridge). EDD records from Westmoreland, western England and Wilts.

TOAD UNDER THE HARRAS, a lively person (Bishopston). The *harras* is the harrow.

TOOPY DOWN v., to sit on the heels (Llancarfan).

TOOTY DOWN v. - TOOPY DOWN (Resolven, Penderyn, Cwmfelin, Tonteg, St Brides, Llantwit).

TUTTY, pleasant (Pontlottyn). EDD records meaning 'neat, snug' from Shropshire.

VITTY-HANDED, skilful (Middleton). EDD records in form FITTY-HANDED from west Somerset.

WHITTLE, a shawl worn for best, with tassels all round it (Horton). EDD records from Pembrokeshire, Ireland, Durham, Leics., Warwicks., Gloucs., Oxfordshire, Staffs., Sussex, Hants., Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall.

WOOD-WOOL, wood-shavings (Peterston).

ZUMMET = NUMMET (Middleton).

(b) The Human Body

BLADDER, a blister (Horton). SED records in Cornwall, Devon and Hants. OE.

GAMMIT, awkward (Bishopston). EDD records GAMMY meaning 'lame, crooked, sore, feeble' from Pembrokeshire, Northumberland, Yorks., Lancs., Chesh., Shropshire, Gloucs., Warwicks., Cornwall, Wilts. and Devon. OED records the word GAME meaning 'lame' from the 18th century; this is perhaps an adoption of French gambi meaning 'bent, crooked'; compare also Welsh cam 'crooked'.

GAMMY-HANDED, left-handed (Llangan and Treoes). SED records GAMMY-FISTED/GAMMY-PAWED/GAMMY-HANDED, all with the same meaning, in Lancs., Chesh., Shropshire, Somerset and Wilts. The GAMMY element is probably of the same origin as GAMMIT above.

GULGE v., to drink noisily (Llanrhidian). ME gulchen.

GUTSE = GULGE (Llangennith, Hengoed). SED records this in Gwent and Devon.

LOCKS, LOCKSES, whiskers on a man's cheeks (Gorseinon, Llangennith).

LONK, hungry (Bishopston). Perhaps from OE hlanc 'lank, lean'.

NUDDOCK, the back of the neck (Bishopston). EDD records NIDDICK, of identical meaning, from Pembrokeshire, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. OED records NIDDICK from the 16th century; its origin is obscure.

RAG-NAIL, an agnail (Penderyn).

TUSH, a small tuft of hair (Llantwit). OED records from the 16th century. A variant of TUSK of same meaning.

(c) Farming

AILS, bristles of barley (Horton, St Brides). SED records in most midland counties of England and equally widely in the south. OE.

BACKS, the ridges in a ploughed field (Rudry). SED records in only one locality -- in Kent. OE.

BANDO, a stick, like that used in hockey, for distributing dung over the fields (Penderyn).

BATKIN (i) the wooden rod that keeps the traces apart on a harness (Llanrhidian, Horton). (ii) the crossbar on a plough (Middleton). SED records sense (ii) in Herefs., Gwent, Gloucs., Somerset, Wilts, Dorset. ME boidekyn.

BEASTING, present participle used as adjective, on heat (Tonteg). SED records from Shropshire, Herefs., Gwent, Lincs., Cambridgeshire, Norfolk. Formed on BEAST (ME beste).

BED, the undersurface of a plough (Horton). SED records sporadically in the south of England. OE.

BOOSY, a meadow lying near the cattle-sheds (Llangennith, Cowbridge). From OE bōsig 'a cow-stall'.

BOWL, the hub of a wheel (Glais, Resolven, Llanrhidian). In England, recorded at only one locality, in Devon. But Welsh bwl and bwlyn of the same meaning are widespread: see Alan R. Thomas, The Linguistic Geography of Wales (Cardiff 1973), pp. 282-283.

BUBBOCK, a scarecrow (Bishopston, Middleton, Horton, Llantwit). EDD records from Pembrokeshire. Welsh bwbach brain, literally 'bogey of crows'.

BULLIT, on heat (of a cow) (Llangennith). OED records BULL, verb, 'to desire the bull' from 14th century.

CAMRON, the wooden rod that keeps the traces apart on a harness (Glais, Peterston, Llantwit, Llancarfan). Welsh cambren 'a swingle-tree'.

CRANK, CRINK, the smallest and weakest pig in a litter (Penderyn, Rudry, Llangan, and south Glamorgan except Cowbridge). SED records CRINK in Gwent.

CRATCH, a hay-rack (Penderyn). Widely recorded by SED in the west-midland counties of England. ME; an adoption of Old French creche.

CRINK -- see CRANK.

DOLAN, an implement for carrying hay on one's back (Llangan).

DRIPPLES, cart-ladders (Penderyn, Peterston, Llantwit, Llancarfan). ME therrepyllis.

EAN v., to lamb (Penderyn). Widely recorded in England. OE *ēanian*; compare also Welsh *oen* 'a lamb'.

FESCUE, small straw (Cwmfelin). EDD records in the sense 'a kind of grass' from Herefs. An adoption of Old French *festu* 'a straw'.

FIDDLE, a seed-bag used when sowing by hand (Glais, Resolven, Hengoed, Cwmfelin, Tonteg, Llangan and South Glamorgan). Widely recorded in Gwent.

FLOT, a growth for grazing, after the hay is cut (Llanrhidian).

FORIERS, VORIERS, headlands, i.e. strips of land left unploughed at the ends of a field but afterwards ploughed at right-angles (Bishopston, Middleton). SED records the VORIERS form in Cornwall and Devon.

FRY, the pluck of a slaughtered animal (Llanrhidian, Llangan). OED records in dialect use from 19th century. Found very sporadically in England by SED.

GAMBO (i) a wagon (Gorseinon, Glais, Llanrhidian, Bishopston, Penderyn, Hengoed, Cwmfelin, Rudry). Found widely in south Wales and sporadically in Shropshire. (ii) a farm-cart (Resolven, Hengoed).

GILT, a young sow (Llanrhidian, Tonteg, Rudry). Recorded all over England. ME; adoption of Old Norse *gyltr*.

GRACHAN (with CH pronounced as in Welsh *bach* or Scottish *loch*), the top of a rick before thatching starts (St Brides).

GULLY, a dry-stone enclosure for sheep (Cwmfelin).

HILE v., to root -- used of a pig that digs up the ground with its snout (Glais, Llangennith). Recorded also at Rhayader in Powys, but not in England.

HINTINS = FORIERS, VORIERS (Horton).

HOOKING, a spell of work (Middleton, Llantwit). EDD records HOOKINGS 'two long spells of work, with an interval of rest in between' from Shropshire. Probably a variant form of YOKING that is recorded in this sense by OED from 18th century.

HOPPER, a seed-bag used when sowing by hand (Bishopston, Pontlottyn). Widely recorded in England, especially the west midlands, also in Gwent. ME.

HULLER, a machine for obtaining seed from the heads of clover (Llancarfan). EDD records from west Somerset. OE *hulu* 'a husk'.

IDLE EWE, a ewe that has lost a lamb (Horton).

LANSHER, a path separating two pieces of arable land in an open field. EDD records in the form LAND-SHARD from Wilts., Dorset, and west Somerset.

LANTREE (i) the wooden rod that keeps the traces apart on a harness (Penderyn). (ii) an evener on a plough for equalising the pull of the horses (Pontlottyn). Recorded by SED in one locality, in Herefordshire.

LATTERGRASS, an aftermath (Horton).

LATTERMATH = LATTERGRASS (Tonteg, Rudry, Cowbridge). Widely recorded in mid- and south-Wales, Herefs., Worcs., Warwicks., Gloucs., Oxfordshire, Leics., Northants., Buckinghamshire, Berks., Wilts.

LEAD, the gangway im a cow-house from which the animals are fed (Llangennith, Llanrhidian, Middleton, Horton).

MAUND (i) a seed-basket used when sowing by hand (Bishopston, Horton). (ii) a basket used for carrying dry, mixed feed to the horses in (same localities). OE *mand* 'a basket'.

MAWBOUND, suffering with stomach-ache (used of animals and, facetiously, of people) (Middleton). EDD records from Yorks., Chesh., Derbs., Nottinghamshire, Leics. and west Somerset. OE *maga* 'stomach' plus *bunden* 'bound'.

MOILED, hornless (of a cow) (Cwmfelin, Rudry). EDD records from Pembrokeshire, Shropshire and Herefs. OED records from 19th century. Compare Welsh *moel* 'bald'.

MOOT v. = HILE (Llangan, Llantwit). This and MOONT are recorded widely in Gwent, also in parts of Powys and Herefs., and sporadically in Gloucestershire.

MORRIS, a lamb brought up in the house (Penderyn).

MORT (noun), fat (Llanrhidian). SED records at one locality, in Devon; OED records from 17th century.

NESTLE-TRIPE, the smallest and weakest pig in a litter (Bishopston, Middleton, Horton). SED records in Somerset, Wilts., Devon and Dorset.

NOGS, the handles of a scythe (Llanrhidian). Recorded sporadically in Powys and (by SED) in Herefs., Gwent and Wiltshire.

PERK = NESTLE-TRIPE (Cwmfelin).

PIG POTATOES, small potatoes (Rudry). So called because given to the pigs. EDD records from Wiltshire.

PIKE, PIKEL, a fork for digging potatoes or lifting straw (West Glamorgan except Llangennith and Horton; Mid Glamorgan except Mountain Ash; South Glamorgan except Cowbridge). Widely recorded in south-east Wales and by SED in the west-midland counties of England, in Lancashire and Cornwall. PIKE is OE, PIKEL is ME.

PLET, a cutting of hay (Resolven).

RANCE = LEAD (Resolven).

RANGE = LEAD (Penderyn, Pontlottyn, Mountain Ash). Recorded in Powys and Gwent, also Lancs., Shropshire, Herefs. Formed on Old French range 'a row, rank, file'.

RAVES, cart-ladders (Bishopston). Recorded by SED sporadically in Worcs., Gloucs., Oxfordshire, Lincs., Rutland, Huntingdonshire, East Anglia, Somerset, Berks. and Surrey. A variant of RATHE (ME) 'a cart-rail'.

SEED-LIP (sometimes found in the form SEED-LIFT), a seed-basket used when sowing by hand (Horton, Pontlottyn). SED records widely in the west-midland and southern counties of England, and rather less widely in the south-east. OE sǣd-lēap.

SLIDE-CAR, a cart without wheels, or sledge (Llanrhidian, Cwmfelin).

SLIPPER, the undersurface of a plough (St Brides, Llancarfan). SED records from one locality in Yorkshire.

SNED, the shaft of a scythe (Llangennith, Llanrhidian, Bishopston, Horton, Penderyn, Pontlottyn). Widely recorded in Gwent and by SED in many parts of England, especially the west midlands and south. OE snǣd.

SNORL, a prong (Llanrhidian, Horton).

STILLING = LEAD (Bishopston).

TALLUT, a hay-loft (Middleton). Recorded in Gwent, Powys and, by SED, in the west-midland and southern counties of England.

THREE-QUARTERED COW, a cow with a blind teat (Hengoed). Recorded also at Caerleon, Gwent.

TREBBLES, cart-frames (Glais, Resolven, Penderyn, Tonteg). ME therrepyllis.

TRIND, a vessel used in butter-making (Penderyn). Recorded also in Powys.

TWLC, a perch for geese to sit on (Llancarfan).

VORIERS -- see FORIERS.

(d) The Home

BAILEY (i) a passage between the front door and gate of a house (Peterston, Llancarfan, also Cardiff). (ii) a homestead (Resolven). ME, originally meaning 'an enclosed court'.

BATEY v., (in knitting) to shape (e.g. the heel of a sock) by decreasing the number of stitches (Horton). EDD records (under the form BATE) from Devon. Aphetic form of ABATE, formed on Old French *abatre*.

BOSH, a sink used for washing in (Penderyn, Hengoed, Llangan, Peterston). Presumably an extension of the meaning of BOSH in factories: 'a trough in which bloomary tools are cooled', recorded by OED from 19th century. BOSH 'sink' is well-known in Gwent.

CULF, a thick slice of bread (Bishopston, Horton, Llancarfan). Recorded also in south Pembrokeshire.

CWTSH, a small room used for the storage of odds and ends (Glais, Rudry, Llangan). Widely recorded in Powys and Gwent. Adoption of Old French *couche*, the noun formed on *coucher* 'to lay down'.

DAVY, a large spare room in a farmhouse, used for storage of seasonal implements and junk (Resolven).

DOWSET, a custard tart made in a milk-tin after baking (Llangennith).

DUFF, coal-dust (Horton). SED records DUFFY-COAL at one locality, in Northumberland. OED records from 19th century.

EMMAL, wood-ash (Bishopston, Middleton, Horton).

EVE v., to exude moisture, to "sweat" (used of floors and walls) (Horton). EDD records from Gloucs., Oxfordshire, Somerset, Wilts., Devon, Dorset, Cornwall. An old (southern-English) form of GIVE.

FLASK, a clothes-basket (Horton). SED records in Somerset and Devon. Compare Welsh *fflasg*.

GLASTER, a drink of milk and water (Bishopston). EDD records from Wales, Chesh., Shropshire. Welsh *glas dwr*, literally 'blue water'.

GLOY, wheaten straw for thatching houses (Llanrhidian, Horton). EDD records from Scotland, Ireland, and West Glamorgan. OED records in sense 'straw' from 14th century. ME adoption of French *glui*.

PENTANS, the hobs of a grate (Bishopston, Middleton). Welsh *pen tân* 'the head of the fire'.

PINE END, the gable-end of a house (all Glamorgan except Resolven, Bishopston, Horton, Mountain Ash, Cwmfelin, Tonteg, Rudry). Widely recorded in south Wales but only sporadically in England (at 5 places in Gloucs. and Somerset). Origin not known.

PITCH IN!, help yourselves! (Llancarfan).

POONER, a wooden instrument used for mashing potatoes (Llancarfan). Probably a form of POUNDER, formed on the verb POUND 'to beat'.

RIBBINGS, a mixture of ash, coal-dust and small coal used to keep a fire in (Resolven).

SCRIBBOCKS, small pieces of wood (Horton).

SKIP, a potato-basket (Hengoed). ME adoption of Old Norse skeppa.

SLETTAN, a skimmer for cream (Cwmfelin). Recorded also from Pembrokeshire.

SPLEETS, knitting-needles (Horton). OED records SPLEET meaning 'a small strip of split wood or willow' from 17th century.

TOP ROOM, a sitting-room (Rudry).

TOWSER, an apron made of sacking (Horton). EDD records from Devon and Cornwall. OED records TOUSY adj. 'shaggy, rough' from 16th century.

TUN-DISH, a funnel (Gorseinon, Glais, Horton, Mountain Ash, Cwmfelin, Llangan and South Glamorgan). Widely recorded in south Wales and the west-midland counties of England.

(e) Nature

ANGLETOUCH, a worm (Llanrhidian, Bishopston). SED records in two localities in Cornwall. OE angel-twicce.

BREAD AND CHEESE, the edible leaves of the hawthorn (Pontlottyn, Llancarfan). Very widely recorded in England and in Gwent.

BREAST, a hill (Tonteg). SED records at one locality in Cumberland. Compare the widespread use of Welsh bron 'breast' in the names of hills and knolls, also the village-name Fron (popularly called "The Vron") in Radnorshire, Powys.

BRIMS, horseflies (Horton). EDD records BRIMS as a singular form in Kent. Old Norse brims 'a gadfly'.

BULLIES (shortening of BULL-HEADS), minnows (Llancarfan). SED records in Durham, Yorks., Shropshire, Herefs., Worcs., Gloucs. OED records BULL-HEADS from 15th cent.

BUMBAGUS, the bittern (Horton).

BUMBLE-HEADS = BULL-HEADS (Tonteg).

CLUPPIT, broody (applied to hens) (Horton).

EFT, a newt (Horton). Widely recorded in Gwent and, by SED, in southern England; also in Gloucs., Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Nothants, Essex. OE.

EMMETS, ants (Bishopston, Horton). Recorded at Undy (Gwent), and, by SED, in southern England, Leics., Buckinghamshire, Gloucs., Oxfordshire. OE *Æmete*.

EMMET-BUNKS, ant-hills (Horton). SED records EMMET-BANKS very sporadically in England (2 localities in Buckinghamshire, 1 each in Oxfordshire, Cornwall, Devon).

FEG, coarse mountain grass (Llangennith). Recorded also at Abergavenny and, by EDD, from Powys, northern England, the midland counties of England, Shropshire, Chesh., Herefs. and Worcs.

FITCHET, a pole-cat (Bishopston). SED records FITCHET, FITCHEW, FITCH(Y) and FITCHOCK from Shropshire, Herefs., Warwicks., Gwent, Somerset, Cornwall and Devon; they are widely recorded also in Powys. ME *fitchet*.

FLUSH, fledged (of wild birds) (Resolven, Cwmfelin, Tonteg). SED records widely in the west-midland and southern counties of England. OED records from 16th century; etymology obscure.

GLAT v., to fill in gaps in hedges (Penderyn). Widely recorded in Powys and north Gwent.

GOBLET, a gosling (Resolven).

GOLBY, a fir-cone (Llantwit). OED records GALBULUS with this meaning from the 18th century, quoting (amongst other things) by way of definition R.D.Hoblyn, *A Dictionary of the Terms Used in Medicine and the Collateral Sciences*, 2nd (1884) edition: '*Galbulus*, a kind of cone, differing from the strobile only in being round, and having the heads of the carpels much enlarged. The fruit of the Juniper is a *Galbulus*.' Hence an adoption of Latin *galbulus*.

GRINSHY-GRANSHIES, young dock-leaves (Llantwit).

HAPSING-POST, the shutting-post of a gate (Bishopston). SED records from Devon and Cornwall. OE *hæpsian* 'to fasten' plus *post*.

JIBBONS, spring onions (Resolven, Gower, Mid Glamorgan except Penderyn and Cwmfelin, South Glamorgan except St Brides). Widely recorded in Gwent and south-east Powys; SED records in 3 localities in Herefs.

JUGGLEMIRE, a quagmire (Middleton, Horton). EDD records from Norfolk, west of England, and Devon.

MILK FLOWER, the white campion (Gorseinon). EDD records from Wiltshire.

MILK WEED, the sow-thistle (Bishopston). EDD records from west Somerset.

MINTWCH, a disease affecting horses (Llantwit).

MOGREGS, ants (Resolven). Welsh *morgrug* 'ants'.

MOLE-TUMP, a mole-hill (Resolven). The TUMP element (recorded by OED from 16th century) occurs widely on its own, meaning 'a mound'. Compare Welsh *twmp*.

PILKS, minnows (Resolven).

POUT, the wattles of a goose (Tonteg).

QUIST, the wood-pigeon (Gorseinon). Widely recorded in Gwent and Powys.

SALLY, the willow (Penderyn). Widely recorded in north Powys and Gwent, and by SED in Shropshire, Herefs., Worcs. Latin *salix*.

SCREWSCROW,a shrew-mouse (Penderyn).

SHERD, a gap in a hedge to allow sheep to pass through (Gower). Recorded by SED in Gwent, Gloucs., Somerset, Wiltshire, Berkshire. OE *sceard* (*sc* pronounced *sh*).

SKULLED, past participle used as a noun, a bald animal (Horton). EDD records from northern Ireland.

SLIP-SHELLS, ripe hazel-nuts (Rudry). EDD records SLIP-SHAWS 'nuts that are ripe' from Hampshire.

SUCKER, a very young animal (Llancarfan).

WERG, the willow (Horton, Mountain Ash).

WHITE LILY, bindweed (Llangan, St Brides, Llancarfan).

WHITE LADY, bindweed (Gorseinon). Compare Welsh *ladi wen*.

WINKY, a weasel (Llantwit). Compare Welsh *gwenci*.

III. SOME FEATURES OF GLAMORGAN DIALECT GRAMMAR

Some people condemn such sentences as *I done it* or *he haven't* as "bad grammar". That they are bad *Standard English* grammar cannot be denied; but after all, Standard English is only one dialect among many. It has high social prestige, but it is not intrinsically "better" than other forms of English. In fact, each and every dialect has its own grammatical conventions (or, in traditional terminology, "rules"). The conventions of Standard English grammar are not "better" or "worse" than those of Glamorgan grammar, but only (in some respects) *different*.

The following are some aspects of Glamorgan grammar that differ from their equivalents in Standard English.

NOUNS

1. *Year* retains its singular form when preceded by a cardinal number (e.g. *two year ago*) at Bishopston, Middleton, Hengoed, Rudry, Llancarfan. This is very widespread in the dialects of England as well. At Cowbridge, *woman* is both the singular form and the plural form.

2. *Calf* forms its plural by simply adding an S sound at Rudry; similarly *sheaf* has plural *sheafs* at Middleton a and Horton. But at Penderyn we recorded the *singular* form *calve* and at Gorseinon and Cwmfelin a singular form *sheave*. All of these are widely recorded in England.

3. The definite article *the* precedes *toothache* (in *Have you got the toothache?*) at Pontlottyn and Rudry. This is very widely recorded in England too. The indefinite article *a* goes with *tongs* (in *I want to buy a tongs*) at Penderyn -- this is rare in England but recorded by EDD in Scotland.

ADJECTIVES

1. *Enough* retains the old plural form *enowe* (found in Middle English) in such phrases as *enowe people*, *enowe potatoes* at Bishopston and Middleton. And both *enough* and *enowe* may function as nouns, and be followed by *of* with a plural noun (*I've got enough of apples*) at Llangennith, Bishopston, Middleton, Cwmfelin, Rudry, Llangan, St Brides, Peterston, Llantwit, Llancarfan. This is rare in England; in Glamorgan it may be due to the influence of Welsh *digon o*.

2. The comparative of *bad* is recorded as *worser* at Bishopston and as *worst* (in *Mumps is bad but diphtheria is much worst*) at Penderyn, Pontlottyn, Mountain Ash, Peterston, Llantwit and Llancarfan. The comparative form *usefuller* (in *Coal is useful but gold is much usefuller*) is recorded at Hengoed.

PRONOUNS

1. *Thee* is still used among the older generation at Bishopston, Middleton and Llantwit. But it is used only between equals and familiars. The form *a* (pronounced as in the first syllable of *about*) is used for 'he' in unemphatic positions in the sentence at Bishopston and Middleton. And at these same localities, *un* (pronounced as in the first syllable of *untidy*) and *n* (as in *button*) may be used for the direct-object pronouns 'him' and 'it'. This is a reduced form of the Old English pronoun *hine* that meant 'him', and that was pronounced something like the word *inner* with an H added at the beginning.

2. Amongst *possessive* pronouns, *thy* and *thine* survive amongst older-generation speakers at Llangennith, Bishopston and Middleton. Their use is confined to equals and familiars. Both are recorded widely in England.

3. Relative pronouns include *as* (in *the man as looks after the cows*) at Resolven, Rudry, St Brides and Cowbridge, and *what* (*the man what looks after the cows*) at Llangan. These too are widespread in England.

VERBS

1. In the present tense, forms such as *he goeth, he look'th* and *he cometh* were occasionally to be heard from older-generation speakers at Middleton in 1960, when investigations were first carried out in that locality. Joseph Wright (*English Dialect Grammar*, section 435) said in 1905 that such forms were still used by elderly speakers in Somerset. Forms of the present tense with DO (lightly stressed, pronounced like -DER in *loader*) are recorded in sentences such as *She do wear the trousers in that 'ouse* at Pontlottyn, Mountain Ash and Llangan. Forms like this are recorded by SED in Gwent, Somerset, Cornwall and Dorset.

2. Past-tense forms include *creeped* (Bishopston, Middleton, St Brides); *come*, in *he come back last night* (Gorseinon, Llangennith, Middleton, Llangan, St Brides, Cowbridge); *speaked* (Middleton, Horton); *seen*, in *I never seen 'im* (Resolven, Llanrhidian, Bishopston, Horton, Llangan, Cowbridge, Peterston, Llantwit, Llancarfan); *lied* meaning 'reclined' (Gorseinon, Glais, Bishopston, Middleton, St Brides, Llancarfan); *bringed*, in *Her grandmother bringed her up* (Middleton); *catched* (Bishopston, Middleton). Most of these are widely recorded in England, although *bringed* is found only in Devon.

3. Past-participle forms include *broke*, in *I've broke it* (Middleton, Mountain Ash); *stole*, in *burglars have stole them* (Llanrhidian, Mountain Ash); *ate* in *I've ate them* (Glais, Llanrhidian, Bishopston, Middleton); *aten* in *I've aten them* (Resolven); *gaved* in *He've gaved it me* (Middleton); *give* in *He've give it me* (Bishopston, Cowbridge); *gived* in *He've gived it me* (Horton); *took*, in *she've took it* (Middleton, Pontlottyn, Hengoed, Llangan). Of these, *aten* is recorded in Somerset, Wilts., Berks. and Dorset; *gived* mainly in Devon; the rest are recorded widely or very widely in places spread over the whole of England and south Wales.

4. The verb *to be* has present-tense forms *I be, she be, we be, they be* recorded at Bishopston and Middleton. The question form *be they?* is recorded at Middleton and Horton, and *art thee?* is recorded at Bishopston, Middleton and Horton. Also recorded are *bain't I?* (Bishopston, Middleton), *bain't thee?* (Bishopston), and *bain't they?* (Llangennith). All of these are recorded (so far as England is concerned) predominantly in Somerset, Devon, Cornwall and Dorset, although they are found more sporadically in other English counties as well.

5. Recorded forms of the verb *to do* include *he do* (Bishopston, Pontlottyn, Mountain Ash, Cowbridge, Peterston, Llantwit, Llancarfan); *he doth* and *we doth* (Middleton). The negative form is *he don't* at Bishopston,

Middleton, Pontlottyn, Mountain Ash, Rudry, Llangan, St Brides, Cowbridge, Peterston, Llantwit, Llancarfan. The present-participle form *a-doing* is recorded at Middleton; in England, this is recorded mainly in the south-west and south. Most of the other forms mentioned in this section are quite widespread in England.

6. Recorded forms of the verb *to have* include *he haven't* at Resolven, Llanrhidian, Bishopston, Pontlottyn, Mountain Ash, Llangan, Cowbridge and Peterston. In England, this form is recorded widely in the south-west midlands and south.

CONJUNCTIONS

For to is recorded in *I went to town for to see the doctor* at Bishopston. In England, this form is recorded widely in the north and south, but only sporadically in the midlands; in Wales, it is recorded also from Pembrokeshire.

IV. A FEW POINTS ABOUT GLAMORGAN PRONUNCIATION

To represent pronunciation accurately in writing we need to use phonetic script. This is outside the scope of the present pamphlet -- which imposes a limit on the amount of material we can discuss under the present heading. However, an attempt will now be made to discuss those points that *can* with reasonable clarity be explained using ordinary spelling. In the rest of this section, capital letters are used to indicate the pronunciations, and underlined lower-case letters to indicate the ordinary spellings, of the words under discussion.

VOWELS

1. *Wasps* is pronounced so as to rime with *asps* at Glais, Resolven, Llangennith, Bishopston, Horton, Penderyn, Pontlottyn, Mountain Ash, Tonteg, Llangan, St Brides, Peterston and Llancarfan. This was the usual pronunciation in Middle English and early Modern English, and still is in many contemporary English dialects.

2. A common sound in Glamorgan and Gwent is the one that phoneticians write thus: [œː]. It is the vowel Parisians use in pronouncing their word *peur* 'fear'. An approximation of it is made by saying the word *air* but *with the lips pouted*. It occurs widely in Glamorgan in words such as *first*, *curse*, *Church*.

3. The sound between the *g* and the *t* in *gate* is a *diphthong* (that is, a glide from one vowel into another, all within one syllable) in many accents. But it is a pure vowel, like the Welsh *ê* in *pêl* 'ball' in parts of Glamorgan, especially Glais, Resolven, Pontlottyn, Mountain Ash, Cwmfelin, Llangan, St Brides, Cowbridge and Llantwit; similarly in words such as *grave*, *make*, *day*, *grey*. In some of these places, this *ê* sound is probably a survival of a Welsh sound transposed into

English by the first Welsh people to use English habitually, and unconsciously imitated by Welsh consonants.

4. The old-fashioned pronunciation [illegible] (with [illegible] like that in [illegible]) for [illegible] is recorded at [illegible], and a pronunciation [illegible] (with [illegible] like that in [illegible]) is recorded at Middleton.

5. [illegible] is pronounced almost everywhere in Glamorgan with the same vowel as that in [illegible]. So too in (largely) the Midlands and some northern dialects in England (where they use the U sound found in [illegible]).

6. Door, floor and four sound almost the same as [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] at [illegible], [illegible], Mountain Ash, [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], St Brides, Cowbridge, Peterston, Llantwit and Llancarfan.

7. An interesting sound occurs in words such as few, dew, and tune at [illegible], Penderyn, Mountain Ash, [illegible], [illegible], and all the dialects examined in South Glamorgan. It is rather like the diphthong written iw in Welsh: it begins as I (as in bit) and glides into OO (as in book). The three words cited above are pronounced FYOO, DYOO, TYOON in most English accents, but in Glamorgan the Y element is not always present: for example, both TI-UN and TII-UN are common pronunciations of tune.

8. In many English accents, the vowel represented by [illegible] in [illegible] is a diphthong (a glide, as described in 3 above), but in [illegible], Pontlottyn and Cowbridge it is commonly a pure vowel, like [illegible] in Welsh [illegible]. So too in words like [illegible], [illegible], [illegible]. The reason for the presence of this sound may be the same as the reason for the [illegible]-type vowel mentioned in no.3 above.

CONSONANTS

1. Initial W is commonly absent from words such as woman (Middleton, Pontlottyn, Llangan, Peterston); wool (West Glamorgan, Penderyn, Llantwit, Llancarfan); work (Middleton). Such pronunciations are fairly common in English accents too, but the reason they are used in parts of Glamorgan may be that initial W does not occur in Welsh except as a result of mutation or in loan-words. The W is absent also from the middle of the words backward and forward at Middleton. On the other hand, W is pronounced in the form of the word whole that is recorded at Mountain Ash.

2. Initial Y is absent from the forms of yesterday recorded at Middleton (ISTERDAY) and of yeast recorded widely throughout Glamorgan (EAST). Both these are recorded sporadically in England. But an initial Y is added in ears (which is pronounced the same as years) over most of Glamorgan except Gower. This is recorded widely in Gwent, also in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset, and sporadically in other English counties.

3. Bitch and flitch are recorded with pronunciations BITS and FLITS at Pontlottyn. This is probably because the TCH sound is not found in Welsh, so TS is used instead.

4. CH occurs instead of J in jacky-longlegs at Llangennith.

5. When P, T or C (or K) come at the beginning of a word, they are pronounced, in much of Glamorgan except Gower, with more breath-force than is usual in most English accents. It is as though a tiny H-sound gets inserted between the P,T,C and a following vowel, so that pea, tongue and cold tend to sound like P^{H}EA, T^{H}ONGUE and C^{H}OLD. This is probably because P,T and C have this same kind of articulation in Welsh. The same phenomenon is often observable at the ends of words too: sheep, wet and black are often pronounced SHEEP^{H}, WET^{H}, BLACK^{H}.

6. In Gower, some elderly speakers pronounce Z in words that in most English accents have S. Examples are ZUET 'suet', and similarly ZEE, ZEVEN, ZILVER, ZIX, ZOUTH, ZOW (sow, the noun), ZINDERS, ZIVE (scythe), ZEA-GULL, ZEE-SAW, ZIR, ZLIDE, ZOGGED (sogged meaning 'boggy'), ZOGGY, ZOWEY; we also find a Z sound at the end of RINZE 'rinse'. All these were recorded at Middleton and, as is well known, they are found also in Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, Hants. and parts of the south-west-midland counties of England.

7.. Again in Gower, some elderly speakers use V in words that begin with F in most English accents. For example, VARMER 'farmer', and similarly VEET, VELLIES (i.e. the fellies of a wheel), VERN, VIRE, VLITCH, VLOWERS, VOOT, VURROW (also VURH from OE furh that also meant 'furrow') — all of which are recorded at Middleton; in addition, VEET is recorded at Horton, VELLIES widely over all Glamorgan, VURROWS at Bishopston and Horton. The English counties whence this use of V for F came into Glamorgan are the same as those mentioned in no.6 above as the probable sources of Z for S.

8. Elderly speakers use D instead of TH in some parts of Gower, e.g. DREE 'three' (Horton), DISSLES 'thistles' (Middleton). In England, this is found in the south-west midlands and in Somerset, Devon, Cornwall and some other southern localities.

9. A common feature of pronunciation in many parts of Glamorgan except Gower is the lengthening of consonants that occur in the middle of a word between vowels. This will happen commonly enough in English accents in words like lamp-post, which many people pronounce with one long P in the middle: the P of lamp is simply held on to so as to convey the P-sound of post as well; this is commoner than saying the P twice. In Glamorgan, the P will be similarly prolonged in words such as suPPer; similarly with the consonants in the middle of raBBits, buTTer, aDDer, seCond, waGon, stoMach, diNNer,

heiFer, iVy, noTHing (TH as in thin prolonged), feaTHer (TH as in then prolonged), dreSSer, diZZy, poRRidge, beLLy.

10. In those parts of Glamorgan where the influence of the Welsh language is strongest (e.g. Gorseinon, Glais, Resolven, Penderyn, Pontlottyn, Mountain Ash, Hengoed) R is usually a rolled R, like that in Welsh. This R is commonly pronounced in words where it is not pronounced in most English accents, e.g. in arm, curtain, butter, shoulder and the like -- presumably because people accustomed to pronouncing words as they are spelt, and being more familiar with Welsh writing-conventions than English ones, treat such words as though their spellings followed Welsh conventions, according to which there are no "silent letters", R being pronounced, as a rolled R, wherever it appears in the spelling.

A WORD OF THANKS

I should like to take this opportunity of recording the appreciation of all members of the Survey of Anglo-Welsh Dialects investigation team of the help they have been given by the dialect-speakers they have interviewed in West, Mid and South Glamorgan. Without this help, so readily given, it would have been quite impossible for us to collect the material that is presented in condensed form here, and more fully and technically in The Survey of Anglo-Welsh Dialects, Volume I: The South-East, edited by David Parry (University College, Swansea, 1978).

David Parry,
Swansea, 1979.